



## Care for the seafarers: A review of mental health in Austronesia

**Author(s):** Guerrero APS, Fung D, Suaalii-Sauni T, Wiguna T  
**Year:** 2013  
**Journal:** Asia-Pacific Psychiatry : Official Journal of The Pacific Rim College of Psychiatrists. 5 (3): 119-140

### Abstract:

**Introduction:** Continent-based regional reviews of mental health may not fully describe the status of ethnocultural groups that are widely dispersed across multiple continents or traditional world regions. Our aim was to describe the Austronesians, an ethno-linguistic group living primarily in islands and coastal areas in the Pacific and Indian Oceans and Southeast Asia. **Methods:** Consulting lay databases, we created matrices to describe the demographic, political, and socioeconomic profiles of nations with majority and minority indigenous Austronesian language-speaking populations. We then accessed the scientific literature to describe examples of mental health disparities and/or challenges in mental health care delivery. **Results:** Many Austronesian-speaking people have experienced recent or current foreign occupation, lack of recognized sovereignty, poverty and low socioeconomic status, and low availability of psychiatric resources and providers. An analysis of the biological, psychological/psychocultural, and social and environmental impacts (risk or protective) on either the prevalence/presentation of mental illness, help-seeking behavior or access to mental health care, or management of mental illness suggested that there may be relatively unique stressors (e.g. loss of homeland from either global warming or nuclear contamination) affecting people in this region and certain biological profiles (e.g. susceptibility to obesity and metabolic syndrome) that may impact psychiatric treatment. **Discussion:** Solutions to mental health challenges in this world region may include culturally relevant and integrative mental healthcare delivery models; resource preserving, prevention-focused universal mental healthcare; and technology to improve connectivity and increase access to either direct services or workforce-building education and training.

**Source:** <http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/appy.12031>

### Resource Description

#### Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Human Conflict/Displacement, Sea Level Rise, Temperature

**Temperature:** Fluctuations

#### Geographic Feature:

resource focuses on specific type of geography

None or Unspecified

# Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal

## Geographic Location:

resource focuses on specific location

Non-United States

**Non-United States:** Asia, Australasia

**Asian Region/Country:** Other Asian Region

**Other Asian Region:** austronesia

## Health Impact:

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Diabetes/Obesity, Mental Health/Stress

**Mental Health Effect/Stress:** Childhood Behavioral Disorder, General Mental Effect/Stress, Mood Disorder, Psychological Development Disorder, Schizophrenia/Delusional Disorder, Stress Disorder, Substance-Induced Disorder

**Population of Concern:** A focus of content

**Other Vulnerable Population:** mentally ill

## Resource Type:

format or standard characteristic of resource

Review

## Timescale:

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified